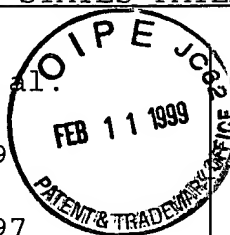


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Chen et al. Group Art Unit: 1623
Serial No. 08/942,369 Examiner: Marjorie A. Moran
Filed: October 1, 1997

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONCURRENTLY DETECTING
PATHOGENIC ORGANISMS AND
ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY



#2/A
2-20-99
Shane

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

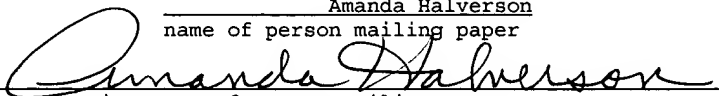
Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed
November 9, 1998, please enter the following amendments and
consider the following remarks.. This response is timely filed
as it is due February 9, 1999.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is
being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient
postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for
Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

February 8, 1999
date of deposit

Amanda Halverson
name of person mailing paper

signature of person mailing paper

FEB 18 1999

GROUP 1-

Claims 1-11 and 19 are pending in the application. Claims 12-18 are cancelled. Claims 20-29 are added.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please cancel the abstract and replace it with the following:

a¹ The present invention relates to a method of detecting the presence of target microorganisms in a biological sample and of simultaneously determining the susceptibility of the microorganisms to antimicrobial agents. The target microbial organisms may be urinary pathogens. The methods include the steps of providing a multicompartment assay device with at least one compartment containing a medium capable of sustaining the growth of total viable microorganisms, at least one compartment containing a medium capable of sustaining the growth of target microorganisms, and at least one compartment containing an antimicrobial susceptibility interpretation medium. A biological sample is placed in each compartment and the presence and antimicrobial susceptibility of the target microorganisms which may be present is determined by analyzing which compartments exhibit microbial growth. *~*
